

EMPLOYMENT & WAGES

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), at <http://stats.bls.gov/> in cooperation with each state's department of employment security, provides data for employment and wages. In Kentucky, the Kentucky Department for Employment Services, Research and Statistics Branch (ph: 502-564-7976, web site: www.desky.org) is the primary data source for employment and wages.

Most employment and wage data are obtained from:

(1) The Current Population Survey (CPS) – A monthly sample survey of the population. The CPS is used to gather data for the calendar week including the 12th of the month and provides comprehensive labor force data. The CPS provides information on the work status of the population without duplication by classifying each person as employed, unemployed, or not in the labor force.

(2) The Current Employment Statistics Program (CES) – Survey data gathered monthly through a sample of employers. The CES is designed to provide detailed national, state, and metropolitan statistical area data on nonfarm wage and salary employment, average weekly hours, and average hourly and weekly earnings.

(3) The ES-202 Report – A quarterly, establishment based compilation of data by industry and county of employment, wages and contributions developed from reports submitted by employers subject to state unemployment insurance law. Reports released by the ES-202 unit of the Kentucky Department of Employment Services, Employment and Wages Section include quarterly and annual reports: *Average Covered Monthly Workers in Manufacturing by Industry Division and County*; *Average Covered Monthly Employment by Industrial Division and County*; *Total Wages by Industrial Division and County*.

Labor Force Estimates: The civilian labor force includes employed and unemployed persons 16 years and older, excluding armed forces personnel and persons in penal and mental institutions, sanitariums and homes for the aged and infirmed. Labor force estimates are residence based (labor force status of county residents). Persons "not in the labor force" are those not classified as employed or unemployed and include persons retired, those engaged in their own housework, attending school, not employed due to illness, voluntarily idle, or discouraged from seeking work due to personal or job market factors. Employed persons include those counted during the survey week who worked for pay or profit or worked 15 or more hours unpaid in family enterprises and those who had jobs but were temporarily absent for non-economic reasons. Unemployed persons include those persons not working but had attempted to find work within the past four weeks and were still available for work, or were laid off or reporting to a new job within 30 days.

The Local Area Unemployment Statistics Unit of the Kentucky Department for Employment Services develops monthly and annual estimates of civilian labor force, employment, unemployment and unemployment rates. In addition to Kentucky state and county data, estimates are available for service delivery areas, area development districts, employment service local offices, congressional districts and metropolitan statistical areas. The data are based on the Current Population Survey, administrative data from the Unemployment Insurance System and employment estimates from the Current Employment Statistics and ES-202 programs. Labor force statistics are revised annually. Kentucky state and county monthly and annual average civilian labor force data are available on the Kentucky Department for Employment Service's web site listed under labor market information.